

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

The House and Senate met for the Inauguration of President George Walker Bush and Vice President Richard Bruce Cheney.

Senate confirmed the nominations of Mike Johanns, of Nebraska, to be Secretary of Agriculture and Margaret Spellings, of Texas, to be Secretary of Education.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S77–S105

Nomination—Agreement: A unanimous-consent-time agreement was reached providing for consideration of the nomination of Carlos M. Gutierrez, of Michigan, to be Secretary of Commerce at 3 p.m., on Monday, January 24, 2005, with a vote on confirmation of the nomination to occur following 2 hours of debate.

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Nomination—Agreement: A unanimous-consent-time agreement was reached providing for consideration of the nomination of Condoleezza Rice, of California, to be Secretary of State at a time to be announced on Tuesday, January 25, 2005, with 9 hours for debate; following which, when the Senate resumes consideration of the nomination on Wednesday, January 26, 2005, a vote on confirmation of the nomination will occur following 40 additional minutes for closing remarks.

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Nominations—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that nominations to the Office of Inspector General, except the Office of Inspector General of the Central Intelligence Agency, be referred in each case to the committee having primary jurisdiction over the department, agency, or entity, and if and when reported in each case, then to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs for not to exceed 20 calendar days, except in cases when the 20-day period expires while the Senate is in recess, the committee shall have 5 additional calendar days after the Senate reconvenes to report the nomination, and that if the nomination is not reported after the expiration of

that period, the nomination be automatically discharged and placed on the Executive Calendar.

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Inaugural Ceremony—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the proceedings from today's inaugural ceremony be printed in today's Congressional Record.

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Appointments:

Senate National Security Working Group: The Chair announced, on behalf of the Majority Leader, pursuant to the provisions of S. Res. 105 (adopted April 13, 1989), as amended by S. Res. 149 (adopted October 5, 1993), as amended by Public Law 105–275, further amended by S. Res. 75 (adopted March 25, 1999), and S. Res. 383 (adopted October 27, 2000), the appointment of the following Senator to serve as a member of the Senate National Security Working Group for the 109th Congress: Senator Frist.

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Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (Helsinki): The Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, pursuant to Public Law 94–304, as amended by Public Law 99–7, appointed the following Senator as Chairman of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (Helsinki) during the 109th Congress: Senator Brownback.

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Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

Mike Johanns, of Nebraska, to be Secretary of Agriculture.

Margaret Spellings, of Texas, to be Secretary of Education.

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Messages From the House:

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Executive Reports of Committees:

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Additional Statements: Pages S99–S101

Adjournment: Senate convened at 3 p.m. and adjourned at 5:09 p.m., until 2 p.m., on Monday, January 24, 2005. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S105.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

NOMINATION

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: On Wednesday, January 19, Committee concluded a hearing on the nomination of Samuel W. Bodman, of Massachusetts, to be Secretary of Energy, after the nominee testified and answered questions in his own behalf.

NOMINATION

Committee on Finance: On Wednesday, January 19, Committee concluded a hearing on the nomination of Michael O. Leavitt, of Utah, to be Secretary of Health and Human Services, after the nominee testified and answered questions in his own behalf.

NOMINATION

Committee on Foreign Relations: On Wednesday, January 19, committee concluded hearings and ordered favorably reported the nomination of Condoleezza Rice, of California, to be Secretary of State.

On Tuesday, January 18, Committee began hearings on the nomination of Condoleezza Rice, after the nominee, who was introduced by Senator Fein-

stein, testified and answered questions in her own behalf.

NOMINATION

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: On Tuesday, January 18, Committee concluded a hearing on the nomination of Michael O. Leavitt, of Utah, to be Secretary of Health and Human Services, after the nominee testified and answered questions in his own behalf.

ASBESTOS CLAIMS RESOLUTION

Committee on the Judiciary: On Tuesday, January 11, Committee concluded a hearing to examine proposed legislation to create a fair and efficient system to resolve claims of victims for bodily injury caused by asbestos exposure, after receiving testimony from Judge Edward Becker, Third Circuit Court of Appeals, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; John Engler, National Association of Manufacturers, Margaret Seminario, Department of Occupational Safety and Health, AFL–CIO, Craig Berrington, American Insurance Association, Michael Forscey, American Trial Lawyers Association, and Jeffrey D. Robinson, Baach, Robinson & Lewis, all of Washington, DC; Mary Lou Keener, McLean, Virginia; and Billie Joe Speicher, Ontario, Canada.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on the Judiciary: On Wednesday, January 19, Committee began consideration of the nomination of Alberto R. Gonzales, of Texas, to be Attorney General, Department of Justice, but did not complete action thereon, and will meet again on Wednesday, January 26.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Measures Introduced: 3 public bills, H.R. 292–294; 1 private bill, H.R. 295; and; 1 resolution, H. Con. Res. 19 were introduced. Page H141

Additional Cosponsors: Page H142

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:
Report on the Activities of the House Committee on Government Reform for the 108th Congress (H. Rept. 108–815);

Report on the Activities of the Committee on House Administration during the 108th Congress (H. Rept. 108–816);

Summary of Activities of the Committee on Science for the 108th Congress (H. Rept. 108–817); and

Activities and Summary Report of the Committee on Budget, 108th Congress (H. Rept. 108–818).

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Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Simpson to act as Speaker Pro Tempore for today.

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Joint Economic Committee Appointment: The Chair announced the Speaker's appointment of Representative Saxton to the Joint Economic Committee.

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